Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A configuration for sealing or sound-proofing a cavity, comprising:

a retaining device having two separately produced half-shells, one of said half-shells having an inner contour, said half-shells being latched to one another using a latching device with said half-shells disposed at a distance from one another forming an interspace between said half-shells except at said inner contour; and

a heat-expansible element constructed as a contoured ring-like plate with an inner circumference substantially corresponding to said inner contour, said heat-expansible element being retained in said interspace.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said half-shells have inner surfaces, and said latching device is disposed on said inner surfaces for connecting said half-shells.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device includes a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on one of said half-shells and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on another one of said half-shells.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said heat-expansible element has further material-free spaces in the area of said latching device.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said two half-shells are a first half-shell and a second half-shell, said first half-shell having said inner contour, said second half-shell having a region corresponding to said inner contour, said latching device ~~further comprising~~ including a latching opening disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and a corresponding latching rib~~, said latching opening being disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and said latching rib being~~ disposed in said region of said second half-shell, and a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on said ~~first~~ second half-shell and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on said ~~second~~ first half-shell.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said latching device being formed of a latching cylinder and of a mushroom-shaped latching element, said latching cylinder being disposed on said first half-shell and said mushroom-shaped latching element being integrally formed on said second half-shell.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said latching device ~~is integrally formed on a surface of one of said half-shells for connection~~ connects said half-shells to an inner wall of a cavity to be ~~separated off~~ sealed.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 2, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on said inner surfaces of said half-shells.

Claim 9 (original): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said half-shells are formed of injection molded plastic.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said expansible shaped element has a shape substantially corresponding to said interspace.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (previously presented): A configuration for sealing or sound-proofing a cavity having a cross-section, comprising:

a retaining device to be positioned in the cross-section of the cavity, said retaining device having two separately produced half-shells, one of said half-shells having an inner contour, said half-shells being latched to one another using a latching device with said half-shells disposed at a distance from one another forming an interspace between said half-shells except at said inner contour; and

a heat-expansible element constructed as a contoured ring-like plate with an outer circumference substantially corresponding to the cross-section of the cavity and with an inner circumference substantially corresponding to said inner contour, said heat-expansible element being retained in said interspace.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said half-shells have inner surfaces, and said latching device is disposed on said inner surfaces for connecting said half-shells.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said latching device includes a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on one of said half-shells and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on another one of said half-shells.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said heat-expansible element has further material-free spaces in the area of said latching device.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said two half-shells are a first half-shell and a second half-shell, said first half-shell having said inner contour, said second half-shell having a region corresponding to said inner contour, said latching device ~~further comprising~~ including a latching opening disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and a corresponding latching rib~~, said latching opening being disposed within said inner contour of said first half-shell and said latching rib being~~ disposed in said region of said second half-shell, and a mushroom-shaped latching element disposed on said ~~first~~ second half-shell and a corresponding latching cylinder disposed on said ~~second~~ first half-shell.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said two half-shells are first and second half-shells, said latching device being formed of a latching cylinder and of a mushroom-shaped latching element, said latching cylinder being disposed on said first half-shell and said mushroom-shaped latching element being integrally formed on said second half-shell.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said latching device ~~is integrally formed on a surface of one of said half-shells for connection~~ connects said half-shells to an inner wall of a cavity to be ~~separated off~~ sealed.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 16, wherein said latching device is integrally formed on said inner surfaces of said half-shells.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said half-shells are formed of injection molded plastic.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The configuration according to claim 15, wherein said expansible shaped element has a shape substantially corresponding to said interspace.